products must comply with mandatory Indian quality standards. An inter-ministerial group under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and suggest suitable corrective measures.

(c) to (e) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the WTO Agreements on the economy including the small scale, agro and rural industries in the country. The removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) have exposed the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) to greater competition. Hence, Government have put in place several measures to help our industries become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Production of Khadi

4545. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCAEL INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Khadi during 2000-2001 upto the end of January, 2001 in Karnataka from the certified Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission is having a rate contract with DGS&D;

(c) if so, how many Khadi and Village Industries institutions of Karnataka have been supplying Khadi to various Government departments;

(d) whether Khadi from Karnataka is purchased by the Railways and the Government departments under the rate contract; and

(e) if so, the amount of Khadi procured so far by Government departments during 2000-2001 from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission collects and compiles State-wise production data on yearly basis. The requisite information for the year 2000-01 has not been compiled as yet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Thirteen institutions from Karnataka are enlisted with the KVIC for supplies to Government departments, however, supplies are being made only to the Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) Only the Railways is purchasing Khadi through rate contract and Khadi worth Rs. 197 lakhs has been purchased from Karnataka during 2000-2001.

Small Scale Industry year

†4546. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had observed the year 2000 as Small Scale Industry Year;

(b) if so, the schemes implemented during the said year;

(c) whether there is a proposal to create employment opportunities at the local level in rural and adivasi areas under the aforesaid programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.